

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 21, 22 and 33-44 are pending in the present application. In the above amendments, independent claims 1, 6 and 21 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 4. Claim 4 has been cancelled.

Applicant respectfully responds to this Office Action.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the notification of allowable subject matter in claims 4, 5 and 41-43.

Applicant also gratefully acknowledges the notification that claims 40 and 44 are allowable.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 6 and 21 have been amended into include the allowable subject matter of claim 4 and are therefore now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 6-10 and 21-22 as unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Daly (U.S. Patent No. 6,190,190; hereinafter “Daly”) in view of Sonoda et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,181,782; hereinafter “Sonoda”).

Although Applicant respectfully suggests that the rejections could be traversed and overcome, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 6 and 21 to expedite prosecution in view of the Office Action’s indication of allowable subject matter. Consequently, all pending claims are now in condition of allowance.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

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